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Hongkong, December 10, 1892. 2164

THE CHINA MAIL.

The publication of this issue commences at 8.05 p.m.

HONGKONG REGATTA.

The Regatta commenced to-morrow afternoon. The Pilot Fish will leave Pender's Wharf at 1.15 and 1.45 conveying spectators to the flagship of the V. R. C., the steamer Oriana.

The three principal races will be the Chairman's Cup, Garrison Cup, and Hong Pair. The former will probably be won by Sanders crew after a tight race with Manuk's crew. For the Garrison Cup the Naval crew is not the strong combination it was regarded last week, but while public favour in it must be shaken it is generally believed that there is nothing very strong to oppose it. If Sanders had a different No. 3 he might have a chance. Manuk is fancied by a knowing set but his bow men are rather doubtful. The Hong Pair will also be a close fight, but if Duncan does not get tired out after the Chairman's and Garrison Cups, Lane, Crawford's pair ought to win. Stoppani and E. Lamont are rowing well together, are game enough for anything, and may manage to snatch a victory which would certainly be popular.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Legislative Council met this afternoon. H. E. the Governor, Sir William Robinson, presided, and there were also present: Hon. G. T. M. O'Brien, O.M.G., Colonial Secretary; Hon. A. J. Leach, Acting Attorney General; Hon. J. H. Stewart, Registrar General; Hon. N. G. Mitchell, Jones, Colonial Treasurer; Hon. E. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works; Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, Harbour Master; Hon. C. P. Chatter, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. Ho Kai, Hon. E. B. Bellis, and Mr. F. H. May, Acting Clerk of Council. Absent: Hon. J. J. Bellis.

The Colonial Secretary handed in reports of proceedings of the Finance Committee, presented by the Hon. G. T. M. O'Brien, in accordance with the notice given by his honourable friend who represents the Chamber of Commerce, a protest with regard to the Appropriation Bill for 1893 on behalf of the Unofficial Members.

His Excellency—Do you wish it to lie on the table?

Mr. Chatter—I wish it read.

The protest, which was in the following terms, was read by the Clerk of Council:—We, the undersigned Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, both nominated and elected, desire to place on record our unanimous protest against the Appropriation Ordinance for 1893, entitled—

An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, and the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, to apply a sum not exceeding Two million Two hundred and Fifty-six thousand Three hundred and Seventy-five dollars to the Public Service of the Colony for the year 1893.

The Ordinance, published in the number 2 of the 1892 and 1893, of the Hongkong Government Gazette of the 3rd instant, having been passed by this Honourable Council on the 30th day of November, 1892, and having been assented to by His Excellency the Governor, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, on the 3rd day of December instant.

We protest against the inclusion in that Ordinance, contrary to the unanimous votes and opinions of all the Unofficial Members of the Finance Committee and in the Committee of the Council of large sums for the salaries of the Civil Servants of the Colony in excess of the amounts voted and approved by all the Unofficial Members in the Finance Committee and reported to the Council, and in excess of what, in our opinion, is necessary or of the Colony can reasonably afford to pay.

We protest against the Council Secretary and the Official Members of Council voting in Committee of Council, and in Council on the 13th day of December, 1892, in support of the Ordinance for the salaries of the Civil Servants of the Colony in excess of the amounts voted and approved by all the Unofficial Members in the Finance Committee and reported to the Council, and in excess of what, in our opinion, is necessary or of the Colony can reasonably afford to pay.

Members of Council are legally incapable of voting on questions in which they are directly pecuniarily interested. They are disqualified on principle and by the law of England, and we protest and declare that the votes of the Official Members of Council on the Appropriation Bill, as far as the question of official salaries is concerned, are null and void and of no effect.

We declare that the amendments proposed in Committee of Council for the reduction of official salaries to the scale in force in 1890 were duly carried by a majority of legal votes; that the votes recorded against the amendments were null and void and ought not to have been counted and that the Appropriation Bill ought to have been reported and passed with these amendments.

For the reasons above given, we formally and unanimously protest against the Ordinance for the salaries of the Civil Servants of the Colony for 1893 as published, and declare it not to have been duly passed by this Honourable Council and not to be law.

Dated Hongkong, this 13th day of December, 1892.

His Excellency—Is it addressed to the Secretary of State?

Mr. Chatter—It is handed in to the Council. It will be followed by a further letter to the Secretary of State. We must first protest in the Council.

INCREASED RATING FOR KOWLOON.—The Colonial Secretary—I beg to move the resolutions standing in my name for increasing the rates at Kowloon Point and Yau-mat. Honourable members will remember that our supplementary vote is taken this year for gas equipment and plant at Kowloon, so on, and in the estimates for 1893 you will find a sum of \$3000 to be applied for the cost of gas. It is now proposed to rate those districts which will benefit by the gas, to impose upon them the usual percentage for lighting which is imposed in the heart of the City.

The Colonial Treasurer, in responding, thought no objection would be raised by the residents in the districts.

THE LOAN BILL.—The Colonial Treasurer—I have the honour to bring up for first reading a Bill

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1892.

TELEGRAMS.

(Special to THE CHINA MAIL.)

(Via Southern Line.)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE SHERMAN SILVER PURCHASE BILL.

London, 13th December, 1892.

In the U.S. Senate Mr. Stewart introduced a motion to amend the Sherman Act by the establishment of free silver coinage and the issue of Treasury bonds based on silver deposits.

(From Singapore Papers.)

THE INDIAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

London, December 1.—Major-General Sir George S. White, K.C.B., V.O., has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of India.

UGANDA.

The British Government are despatching a Special Commissioner with an escort to Uganda to report upon the present position of the country.

A REPORTED ROYAL BETROTHAL.

London, December 3.—The report of the approaching betrothal of H. R. H. the Duke of York with Princess May of Teck is again revived and remains undenied.

(Penny Gazette.)

THE MONETARY CONFERENCE.

London, November 27.—The American delegate submitted to the Conference proposals to establish an international agreement providing for the unlimited exchange of gold and silver into full debt paying money, fixing the ratio of metals and creating a uniform charge to the public for coining gold and silver.

(Special Telegram to the Straits Times.)

THE SINGAPORE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

London, Dec. 2.—The news of the winding up of the Singapore Insurance Company has met with thorough approval in London.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSENGER SUEZ CANAL.

SINGAPORE, 13th Dec. 1892. (Dunlop, 18; Chatter, 21; Harcourt, Nov. 11; Dardanis, 18; Gungley, 20; Bayers, 18; Kinkaid, 20.)

HOUSEWARD ROVER—Kaituma, Oct. 20; Sydney, Nov. 11; Gungley, 20; Bayers, 18; Kinkaid, 20; Bayers, 18; Kinkaid, 20.

The M. M. Co.'s s.s. Melbourne, with the FREMONT MAIL of November 11, left Saigon on Monday, December 12, at 6 a.m., and may be expected here on or about Thursday, Dec. 15. This packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on Oct. 5.

The P. & O. s.s. Verona, with the SINGAPORE MAIL of Nov. 13, left Singapore on Tuesday, December 13, at 5 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Monday, December 19. This packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on Oct. 13.

The P. M. S. s.s. Victoria, with the SINGAPORE MAIL of Nov. 13, left Singapore on Tuesday, December 13, at 5 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Monday, December 19. This packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on Oct. 13.

The R. M. S. s.s. Empress of China left Vancouver for Hongkong via Yokohama, Kobe and Shanghai on Dec. 13.

The P. & O. s.s. Java, from Bombay for this port, left Singapore on Dec. 8, and may be expected here on or about Dec. 16.

The D. D. R. s.s. Aspin, from Hamburg, left Singapore for this port on Dec. 12, and may be expected here on or about Dec. 19.

The s.s. Arratoon Apar, from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port yesterday.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer Dardanis left Singapore this morning, and may be expected here on or about the 1st instant.

Owing to want of space we are compelled to leave out our Share List. The only alteration is: Perijons, \$4.

The P. M. S. s.s. Peru, which sailed hence Nov. 19, and from Yokohama Nov. 29, arrived at San Francisco on the 13th inst.

The P. & O. s.s. Verona left Singapore for this port on the 13th inst. at 5 p.m., with the outward English mails, and is expected here about 5 p.m. on 19th inst.

The B. M. S. s.s. Empress of China, Captain Archibald, left Vancouver on Tuesday morning, the 13th instant, for Hongkong via Yokohama, Kobe and Shanghai.

To Cure Sore Throats—Sulphuric Lotion quickly drives away Bacteria, Pimples, Rashes, Redness, Eczema, Acne, Disfigurements, Bores and Scars, &c., leaving a clear, healthy skin and beautiful complexion. Sulphuric Lotion is a necessity for the skin, especially in hot climates. Made in London. Sold everywhere in Shilling Bouteils.

MEMORANDUM FOR TO-MORROW.

Shipping.

Daylight.—Railway leaves for Shaw, &c. 5 p.m.—Sungking leaves for Manila, &c.

Meetings.

5.30 p.m.—Meeting of Diligence Lodge. 9 p.m.—Meeting of British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association.

Amusements.

9 p.m.—Harcourt and Sons' Grand Circus and Menagerie, at West Point.

Miscellaneous.

Noon.—Local Banks close. Noon.—Insurance Offices close. Victoria Regatta. Goods per Opach undelivered after this date subject to rent.

General Memoranda.

Friday, December 13.—Noon.—Local Banks close. Noon.—Insurance Offices close. Victoria Regatta. 5 p.m.—Meeting of Diligence Lodge. Saturday, December 12.—11 a.m.—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.—Wonderful Panorama on the Grand Floor, No. 2, Queen's Road Central. 2.30 p.m.—Harcourt and Sons' Grand Circus and Menagerie at West Point. Monday, December 19.—4 p.m.—Auction of Crown Land at Hung-hou. 5.30 p.m.—Public Meeting in St. Andrew's Hall. Transfer Office of the Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., closed from this date to 31st instant, inclusive.

Exchange, December 14

On London—Bank, Wire, ... 2/8 1/2 On demand, ... 2/8 1/2 On 30 days sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 4 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 6 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 9 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 12 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 15 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 18 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 21 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 24 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 27 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 30 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 33 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 36 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 39 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 42 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 45 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 48 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 51 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 54 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 57 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 60 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 63 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 66 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 69 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 72 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 75 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 78 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 81 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 84 months sight, ... 2/8 1/2 On 87 months sight, 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entitled "An Ordinance to declare the terms and conditions applicable to Loans authorized to be raised by the Government of Hongkong and to provide for the creation of Inscribed Stock." This Ordinance does not appear to be one which we should reasonably expect to lead to debate. It prescribes the manner in which the loan should be raised, and that method be decided upon for raising a loan. It has been drafted in England upon an approved model, and I trust the Council will find it unnecessary to make any alterations upon it. It presupposes a desire for a loan in the Colony, and that that desire does exist I have little doubt. The Honorable member who represents the Chamber of Commerce in his speech on 13th October, 1890, expressed himself as follows:—The finances of the Colony may be regarded as fairly satisfactory, but economy is necessary in view of the extra military contribution, the almost certain decrease in opium revenue, and the considerable increase in the salaries of officials, which latter I think the public will be very glad the Secretary of State has sanctioned. In view of the fact that this increase will or should be an incentive to greater efficiency in the different departments. The extraordinary public works expenditure is, I think with your Excellency, one which is somewhat unjust towards the present ratepayers and should be provided for by means of a loan. Future generations will derive as much benefit from these public works as the present ratepayers and I heartily agree with your Excellency that posterity should pay its fair share towards them. I wish to refer to a statement in the report of the Finance Committee dated 21st March, 1892, the wording of which as far as I can ascertain appears to be somewhat misleading. Speaking for the half of that Committee, and I believe I may say for the whole of it, we had no intention of committing ourselves to anything beyond an expression of opinion that looking to the balance of assets remaining at the time and the comparatively small deficit to exist at the end of 1892 a loan did not appear necessary. We had no intention of that sort, but we fully recognized the fact that in future years large deficits might be expected and we have deprecated borrowing so long as sufficient revenue could be obtained from ordinary sources plus the proceeds from the sale of opium and the proceeds from the expenditure on approved public works. That we have reached the point at which a loan is desirable, I think, is self-evident. The balance of our assets is exhausted. Our expenditure at the end of the year will be three times the revenue is derived from the revenue. That this is an extraordinary state of affairs in the finances of the Colony is evident from the report which I prepared for the Committee appointed to consider the advisability of raising a public loan. In 1883 the balance of expenditure over revenue was \$27,000; in 1884, \$402,000; in 1885, \$302,000; in 1886, \$918,000; in 1887, \$440,000; in 1888, \$374,000; in 1889 and 1890 there was a balance of revenue over expenditure of \$1,000,000; in 1891, \$1,000,000; in 1892, \$1,000,000; in 1893, \$1,000,000; in 1894, \$1,000,000; in 1895, \$1,000,000; in 1896, \$1,000,000; in 1897, \$1,000,000; in 1898, \$1,000,000; in 1899, \$1,000,000; in 1900, \$1,000,000; in 1901, \$1,000,000; in 1902, \$1,000,000; in 1903, \$1,000,000; in 1904, \$1,000,000; in 1905, \$1,000,000; in 1906, \$1,000,000; in 1907, \$1,000,000; in 1908, \$1,000,000; in 1909, \$1,000,000; in 1910, \$1,000,000; in 1911, \$1,000,000; in 1912, \$1,000,000; in 1913, \$1,000,000; in 1914, \$1,000,000; in 1915, \$1,000,000; in 1916, \$1,000,000; in 1917, \$1,000,000; in 1918, \$1,000,000; in 1919, \$1,000,000; in 1920, \$1,000,000; in 1921, \$1,000,000; in 1922, \$1,000,000; in 1923, \$1,000,000; in 1924, \$1,000,000; in 1925, \$1,000,000; 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in 2478, \$1,000,000; in 2479, \$1,000,000; in 2480, \$1,000,000; in 2481, \$1,000,000; in 2482, \$1,000,000; in 2483, \$1,000,000; in 2484, \$1,000,000; in 2485, \$1,000,000; in 2486, \$1,000,000; in 2487, \$1,000,000; in 2488, \$1,000,000; in 2489, \$1,000,000; in 2490, \$1,000,000; in 2491, \$1,000,000; in 2492, \$1,000,000; in 2493, \$1,000,000; in 2494, \$1,000,000; in 2495, \$1,000,000; in 2496, \$1,000,000; in 2497, \$1,000,000; in 2498, \$1,000,000; in 2499, \$1,000,000; in 2500, \$1,000,000; in 2501, \$1,000,000; in 2502, \$1,000,000; in 2503, \$1,000,000; in 2504, \$1,000,000; in 2505, \$1,000,000; in 2506, \$1,000,000; in 2507, \$1,000,000; in 2508, \$1,000,000; in 2509, \$1,000,000; in 2510, \$1,000,000; in 2511, \$1,000,000; in 2512, \$1,000,000; in 2513, \$1,000,000; in 2514, \$1,000,000; in 2515, \$1,000,000; in 2516, \$1,000,000; in 2517, \$1,000,000; in 2518, \$1,000,000; in 2519, \$1,000,000; in 2520, \$1,000,000; in 2521, \$1,000,000; in 2522, \$1,000,000; in 2523, \$1,000,000; in 2524, \$1,000,000; in 2525, \$1,000,000; in 2526, \$1,000,000; in 2527, \$1,000,000; in 2528, \$1,000,000; in 2529, \$1,000,000; in 2530, \$1,000,000; in 2531, \$1,000,000; in 2532, \$1,000,000; in 2533, \$1,00

